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Two days in April

Hubble was launched on the 24th, and opened on the 25th.

NASA's observatory page says the Hubble Space Telescope was "Launched on April 24, 1990 aboard the space shuttle Discovery." The deployment page gives the official launch time as 8:33:51 a.m. EDT. The next day, 25 April 1990, Discovery's crew deployed it.

Official page	Official wording
Launch	"Launched on April 24, 1990 aboard the space shuttle Discovery." Official time: 8:33:51 a.m. EDT.
Size	"At 43 feet (13.1 m) long and 14 feet (4.3 m) in diameter at its widest point, Hubble snuggly fit inside Discovery." When it launched, it "weighed some 24,000 pounds (10,866 kg)," "roughly the size of a railroad tank car or a school bus."
Deployment	"The Hubble Space Telescope... was deployed by Discovery's crew on April 25, 1990." A photograph shows it "332 nautical miles above Earth."
Orbit	It "completes 15 orbits per day, circling Earth approximately once every 95 minutes," at "about five miles (8 km) per second, fast enough to travel across the United States in about 10 minutes."
Servicing	"Hubble has more than doubled its original lifespan thanks to the 32 astronauts who deployed and serviced the observatory." It was "serviced five times between 1993 and 2009."

A short quiz

1. On which date was Hubble launched?
2. What official launch time does the deployment page give?
3. How many astronauts, according to NASA, deployed and serviced Hubble?

Answers. 1. 24 April 1990. 2. 8:33:51 a.m. EDT. 3. 32.

Wording from NASA Science, Hubble Observatory, and Hubble Deployment (STS-31). Checked 17 November 2026. A facts-box label "Launch Apr 25, 1990" on the deployment page is the deployment date, not the launch date.

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